Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the Abstract with the following new Abstract:

A method for simplifying display of complex network connections in a user interface. The method includes displaying a network topology display having multiple interconnected nodes. The nodes, such as network hubs or switches, are connected to one or more of the other nodes via line segments or connection paths. The segments are intentionally overlapped to simplify the visual representation of the network topology display. To remove ambiguity as to which nodes are connected to each other, the method includes using distinguishing connector segments to connect the orthogonal portions of the line segments or connection paths. The connector segments are configured to indicate which nodes are connected and may include any polygonal structure. In one embodiment, the connector segments comprise rounded corner connectors between two orthogonal segments that effectively indicate connected node pairs.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on line 18 of page 6 with the following amended paragraph:

In another embodiment, the user is provided with a menu item that allows the user to selectively highlight all the connections of a node simultaneously. Figure 4 illustrates a portion of a network topology display 300 including multiple highlighted connection paths according to an embodiment of the present invention. As shown, screen display 300 includes multiple nodes and connection paths similar to Figures 2 and 3. All connection paths connecting switch node 330 with one or more other nodes, i.e., nodes 352, 354 in host group 350 and nodes in switch group 310, are shown in a "highlighted" state responsive to a user selection of all the connections for switch node 330. As above, highlighting of the connection paths can include emboldening, thinning, coloration, flashing, etc. In alternate embodiments, the user can select all connections of a particular node by clicking on the node, or selecting the node from a list of nodes. In general any form of a command that the user can execute on a node to identify all the links connected to that node can be used.